

# CS 6200 Information Retrieval

## Fall 2019

### Quiz 1

Announced Sep 9, 2019

Due Sep 16, 2019

Succinct answers will be much appreciated.

Open-ended questions may have no 'right' or 'wrong' answer.

1. What is your favorite feature in a search engine? Describe it in a sentence.
2. Name one component of a search engine that you do not normally see in a database system. In one or two sentences, describe what it does.
3. In the context of information retrieval, what does the acronym SERP stands for? If you don't know, use search to find out! Write out the expanded version here, with a one sentence description of what SERP means.
4. Comparing search engines: Think of two information needs that you are interested in. Make them fun and different from each other! For example, one could relate to a political event, another to a sports event etc. Ideally your information need must be sufficiently complex that it needs more than two or three words to express it, but not more than seven or eight words, say.
  1. Describe each information need in a sentence or two.
  2. Think about what information you expect to satisfy each information need. Write down a sentence for each.
  3. Now convert the information need to a query. Write down each query.
  4. Submit these queries one by one to Bing and Google. Look at the results you get.
  5. Did you get information related to what you were looking for?
  6. Write a few sentences for each query about which engine did a better job. If both engines did a good job, or if neither did a good job, mention that too.

Here's a template for your answers to this question. You should have something like this for each information need:

- a. Information need:
  - b. What information I expect to get to satisfy my information need:
  - c. Query corresponding to the information need:
  - d. Got information that I wanted to get: Yes/No
  - e. Comments on results got from Bing and Google for this query:
5. Consider the answers you wrote for the two information needs in question 4. Now answer these questions (one or two sentences for each question):

1. What are some of the criteria you used to decide which search engine was better? Write a couple of sentences to support your answer.
2. Was the evaluation easy? If not, what makes it complicated?